lakh copies. The supplementary directories are distributed through 3-4 courier companies on contract basis. These courier companies distribute only 5-6 lakh directories and give bogus acknowledgements of distributing directories to all the 22 lakh subscribers in Mumbai. Every six months few telephone numbers change but in the supplementary directory lot of information which is not required, is also printed to increase the cost from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 20/-.

(c) The investigation was carried out and preliminary investigation does not reveal any irregularity.

Capacity of Telephone Exchanges in Assam

1245. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of the telephone exchanges in the State of Assam;

(b) the number of phones presently out of order in Assam during the last one year;

(c) the waiting list for phones in Assam presently; and

(d) by when this waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on 31.10.99, total switching capacity of telephone exchanges in the State of Assam is 2,96,371.

(b) On an average, 1000 telephones per day are reported to be faulty. Most of them are repaired expeditiously as per departmental norms.

(c) As on 31.10.99, 25211 persons are on waiting list for new telephone connection in Assam.

(d) The waiting list is likely to be wiped out by the year 2000.